

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are all the claims pending in the present application. In summary, the Examiner has maintained the same prior art rejections as set forth in the previous Office Action. The Examiner adds a few supplemental arguments in the *Response to Arguments* section of the Office Action. Specifically, claim 1 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Baker et al. (US Patent No. 3,472,331) in view of Iizuka et al. (US Patent No. 5,224,563). Claims 2-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Baker in view of Iizuka, and further in view of Nelson (US Patent No. 3,468,389).

§103(a) Rejections (Baker/Iizuka) - Claim 1

Claim 1 is rejected based on the same reasons set forth in the previous Office Action. The Examiner adds a few supplemental arguments in the *Response to Comments* section of the Office Action on pages 4-5.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant previously argued that the applied references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest at least, “a first knuckle which is connected to an upper suspension arm, a lower suspension arm, and a non-rotary side of the direct drive motor, and is locked in a steering direction,” as recited in claim 1. *See pages 4-5 of Amendment dated December 19, 2008.*

Further, Applicant previously argued that there is no description about “a knuckle” in Iizuka and maintained that the knuckle in Baker is not divided to two parts.

In response, even though the Examiner maintains the same prior art rejections, Applicant notes that the Examiner subtly changes his previous arguments. For example, he now alleges

that kingpin 22 of Baker allegedly corresponds to the claimed first knuckle. In response, Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly recognize that a kingpin does not correlate to a knuckle, and that the Examiner has not been consistent in his rationale because the applied art, alone or in combination, does not disclose or suggest the claim limitations.

Further, the Examiner maintains, in part:

Applicant's comments, filed with the amendment, have been carefully considered. Applicant has asserted that Baker et al. fail to teach a first knuckle connected to upper and lower suspension arms. The examiner does not agree: Baker's element 122 may reasonably be interpreted as a knuckle, element 22 may be interpreted as an upper suspension arm and element 24 may be reasonably interpreted as a lower suspension arm, the elements being "connected" to the breadth applicant has recited the connection. The modified interpretation of Baker et al. is applied herein in direct response to applicant's amendment. Applicant has further argued that Baker et al. does not disclose or suggest "a knuckle that is divided into two parts". It is not clear how this limitation relates to the claim recitation, and in that there appears to be no basis in the claims for a limitation of the knuckle being "divided into two parts", the examiner understands that applicant is attempting to convince the examiner to read unrecited limitations into the claims, which is not proper for prosecution. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

In response, Applicant submits that some of the arguments set forth in the previous responses were submitted in an effort to explain the differences between the claimed invention and the applied references to the Examiner. For example, the statement that a knuckle is divided into two parts is simply meant to convey that claim 1, for example, recites that there is a first knuckle and a second knuckle. And, as indicated in the previous responses, Applicants attempted to point out that the Examiner has not demonstrated that the particular structural

components of the claimed invention are satisfied by the applied references, alone or in combination.

The Examiner further alleges, in part:

Applicant has continued, asserting that the reference to Iizuka et al. fails to teach the element[s] which the reference to Baker et al. already teaches, it is not clear how this somehow moots the rejection, and applicant may desire to note that one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

In response, Applicant submits that the arguments set forth in the previous responses are not intended to attack references individually but are merely submitted in response to the Examiner's allegations about what components of the specifically applied references allegedly correspond to the claimed components. To respond to the Examiner's points, Applicants must discuss the specific teachings of the applied references individually, but still maintain that the applied references, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention.

§103(a) Rejections (Baker / Iizuka / Nelson) - Claims 2-6

Applicant maintains that dependent claims 2-6 are patentable at least by virtue of their indirect or direct dependencies from independent claim 1. Nelson does not make up for the deficiencies of Baker and Iizuka.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

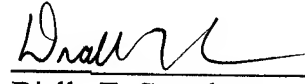
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